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Public Health Reports.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 3, 1896.

No. 14.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Smallpox in New Orleans, La.—Vaccination of river boatmen in that city.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, suggesting that the inspection and vaccination service which was carried on last spring be reinaugurated.

In reply, I have to state that, with regard to the inspection and vaccination of river boatmen at New Orleans, the Bureau will render you such assistance as you may require. You are directed to take such steps as may seem necessary and report same to this office.

Respectfully, yours,

WALTER WYMAN,

Supervising Surgeon-General, U. S. M. H. S.

MEDICAL OFFICER IN COMMAND U. S. M. H. S.,

New Orleans, La.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *March 21, 1896.*

To masters, agents, and owners,

Mississippi River steamboats, New Orleans, La.

GENTLEMEN: In view of the continued prevalence of smallpox in this city and the surrounding country and the danger of carrying the germs of the disease from one port to another on river steamboats, by direction of the Surgeon-General of the Service, it is proposed to vaccinate the officers and crews of outgoing steamers who are not protected by a recent successful vaccination or by a previous attack of the disease. A certificate of vaccination will be given to each man vaccinated, and to avoid the possibility of quarantine restrictions at various ports on the rivers, it is recommended that no person be employed on a river boat unless he produces a certificate of vaccination. Vaccinations will be made at the marine-hospital office, custom-house, between 9 a. m. and 4 p. m. and on board the steamers, if practicable, before sailing.

With your cooperation, as suggested, it is believed that the work of

vaccination, as outlined, will prove to be a valuable aid to the local health authorities in their efforts to suppress a loathsome disease.

HENRY W. SAWTELLE,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *March 26, 1896.*

Surgeon in charge U. S. marine hospital, New Orleans, La.:

SIR: At a meeting of this exchange yesterday a copy of your recent circular letter relative to the vaccination of the crews of the various steamboats represented, was read and discussed and it was unanimously agreed that such service should be accepted and the mates of all boats be instructed to ship up no men on deck who do not hold certificates of vaccination, and a disposition was manifested to lend a hearty cooperation in every way possible with your office and the local authorities for the suppression of the smallpox and the preservation of the general health. Your prompt and willing action was referred to and appreciated, and the ready response of your gentlemanly assistants had like appreciation, and, doubtless, your office will have many calls for such service.

Again thanking you, I am, very truly, yours,

CHAS. P. TRUSLOW,
President Steamboat Captains' and Owners' Exchange.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *March 21, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the officers and crew of the steamer *Imperial* of the Red River Line were vaccinated to-day by an officer of the service detailed for that purpose upon request of the president of the line. It is proposed to continue the vaccination of crews of river steamboats, but a sanitary inspector to do the work will not be needed at present. Should one be required I will nominate by telegraph. Necessary vaccine will be purchased here.

Very respectfully,

HENRY W. SAWTELLE,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *March 24, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that a negro roustabout, suffering from smallpox, was sent to the city pesthouse from this hospital to-day.

Very respectfully,

HENRY W. SAWTELLE,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Scarlet fever in Seattle, Wash. (Correction).

Under date of March 10 the health officer for the city of Seattle calls attention to the report of scarlet fever in Seattle, published in the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, Vol. XI, No. 9, page 179. He states that:

"During the year ended December 31, 1895, there were 264 cases and 7 deaths from scarlet fever reported. During January, 1896, there were 2 cases and no deaths. During February, 1896, there were 12 cases and 1 death. No public schools have been closed since June, 1895."